AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10 as follows.

FIG. 1A shows:

° the human IL-15 gene sequence (SEQ ID NO:1), and the CDS start and stop positions thereof,

° the sequence of the human mature IL-15 protein (**amino acids 49-162 of** SEQ ID NO:2); peptide 1 (from L44 to L52), peptide 2 (from E64 to I68) and peptide 2a (from E64 to L69) are shown in bold characters,

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1 as follows.

TF-1 cells are available from the American Type Culture Collection ATCC; 10801 University Blvd.; Manassas, Va. 20110-2209; U.S.A.; ~~cf. http://www.lepromochem.com/atcc/~~ under ATCC accession number CRL-2003. Beta chain templates are available from RNA of HuT102 (ATCC TIB-162) or Jurkat clone E6.1 (ATCC TIB 152) by RT-PCR using the proofreading polymerase Pfu (Stratagene no 600390) and 5'GAGAGACTGGATGGACCC 3' as sense primer (SEQ ID NO:51), and 5' AAGAAACTAACTCTTAAAGAGGC3' as anti-sense primer (SEQ ID NO:52) according to human IL-2R beta sequence (NCBI accession number K03122). The PCR product is efficiently cloned using the Zero Blunt PCR Cloning Kit (In Vitrogen cat no K2700-20) or the TOPO XL PCR cloning kit (In Vitrogen cat no K4750-10). The cDNA for IL-2R beta gene is then subcloned into the multiple cloning site of the pLXRN retrovirus expression vector of the Pantropic Retroviral Expression System (BD Biosciences Clontech no 631512) and transfected into GP2-293 cells, as described in the kit to generate recombinant retroviruses. IL-2R beta recombinant retroviruses can then be used to infect TF-1 cells to generate TF-10 after selection in medium containing G418.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 14 as follows.

It may also be linked to a leader sequence that enables improved extracellular secretion of the translated polypeptide. Examples of such leader sequences include Kozak and leader sequences from rat pre-prolactin (NCBI accession number AF022935, nucleotides 178 to 270; ~~cf. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov;~~ National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20894, U.S.A.).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 24 as follows.

The non-adherent TF-1 human cell line is available from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; 10801 University Blvd.; Manassas, Va. 20110-2209; U.S.A.), and has ATCC accession number CRL-2003 ~~(cf http://www.lgcpromochem.com/atcc/)~~. TF-1ß human cells are available by operably transfecting TF-1 cells with beta chains so that the **TF-1ß** ~~TF-1beta~~ cells resulting therefrom ~~proliferates~~ **proliferate** in response to IL-15 (see bibliographic reference 29).